

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL NO. 1054
AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA**

To the Members of the Education Committee:

I would like to express my support of Senate Bill No. 1054, An Act Concerning Students With Dyslexia with additional supports.

In my nearly 30 years of working with adults with low literacy skills as, first, a volunteer literacy tutor and, now, program director of Literacy Volunteers of Greater Waterbury, I have come to realize how extremely important it is for children to be identified early with dyslexia and then receive intensive, effective literacy instruction to meet their special needs.

Without these critical educational components, children with dyslexia will struggle and continuously fall behind in their studies throughout their years in school and many will, eventually, become the adults in our communities who have dropped out of school, who are unable to pursue higher education, who cannot obtain living wage employment, who cannot function independently to read signs at the grocery store, fill out forms at the doctor's office, read a driver's manual--and this list of alarming facts goes on.

With dyslexia, it is critical to provide intensive, appropriate instruction. This is best accomplished during childhood when a student's "job" is to attend school and focus on his/her educational studies. Once that child reaches adulthood, there is often very little time and few community resources available to help that adult reach his full potential as a reader. And why would we want to see that child suffer unnecessarily when **we already know what works to insure that he learns to read while still in school?**

I ask that you support Bill No. 1054, but please insure that:

- All teachers are provided with thorough training in proper identification and instruction of children with dyslexia.
- All children are properly screened for dyslexia.
- All children identified with dyslexia be provided with evidence-based instruction taught **with fidelity** by qualified specialists.

Thank you for addressing the needs of children with dyslexia. This benefits everyone.

Vanessa A. Vowe
Program Director
Literacy Volunteers of Greater Waterbury
267 Grand Street
Waterbury, CT 06702